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Docket No.: 1095.1071

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Shuji OYAMA, et al.

Serial No. 08/825,565

Group Art Unit: 2164

Confirmation No.

Filed: March 31, 1997

Examiner: F. Poinvil

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR GRANTING ACCESS TO NETWORK-BASED SERVICES BASED UPON EXISTING BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION (AS AMENDED)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment filed in a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) filed concurrently herewith. The CPA is filed in response to the Office Action mailed June 19, 2001, and having a period for response set to expire on September 19, 2001.

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please REPLACE claims 1-14 in accordance with the following:

1. (AS FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A network transaction system in which a customer's terminal station is connected to a first bank system via an open network and the first bank system is connected to a second bank system via an inter-network, the customer having an existing bank account in the second bank system and attempting to newly open a bank account in the first bank system, the network transaction system comprising:
- customer processing means disposed at the terminal station and coupled to the open network, said customer processing means for applying for a new bank account by supplying via the open network the first bank system with existing account information descriptive of the

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